

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03071 022205Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022214Z 099287 /72
O 022117Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1714

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ARA/PAN MR. BELL FROM AMBASSADOR JORDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN REMARKS FOR CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS WHICH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
GABRIEL LEWIS PROPOSES TO MAKE WHEN HE PRESENTS CREDENTIALS
TO PRESIDENT CARTER:

2. QUOTE. MOST EXCELLENT MR. PRESIDENT: IT IS A HIGH HONOR FOR ME
TO PRESENT YOUR EXCELLENCY THE CREDENTIAL LETTERS WHICH
HONOR ME AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
MY COUNTRY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
I ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OCCASION TO PRESENT THE WITH-
DRAWAL LETTER OF MY APPRECIATED AND DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR,
AMBASADOR NICOLAS GONZALEZ REVILLA, NOW MINISTER OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS OF MY COUNTRY.

3. IT DOES NOT ESCAPE ME THAT I MUST CARRY OUT THE DIPLOMATIC
MISSION WHICH MY GOVERNMENT HAS ENTRUSTED TO ME IN PARTICULARLY
DELICATE AND GRAVE CIRCUMSTANCES. AS YOU HAVE SAID, MR.

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PRESIDENT, THE TREATY OF 1903 WHICH GOVERNS OUR RELATIONSHIP
REGARDING THE PANAMA CANAL IS "NO LONGER APPROPRIATE OR
EFFECTIVE." MY GOVERNMENT AND MY PEOPLE WERE GREATLY ENCOURAGED
TO HEAR YOU SAY RECENTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
THAT YOU WERE "FIRMLY COMMITTED TO NEGOTIATING IN AS TIMELY A
FASHION AS POSSIBLE A NEW TREATY WHICH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
PANAMA'S LEGITIMATE NEEDS AS A SOVEREIGN NATION..." PANAMA

AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE THE DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A CANAL THAT IS OPEN, EFFICIENT AND NEUTRAL--AND OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR A LONG TIME TO ACHIEVE THOSE ENDS.

4. NOW, WHEN WE APPARENTLY HAVE REACHED THE THRESHOLD OF THAT REALITY, IT IS NECESSARY FOR OUR COUNTRIES TO TRAVEL THE REST OF THE WAY WITH MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING, THIS GIVING AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD OF WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH DIALOGUE AND ACCORD, BETWEEN A GREAT AND WEIGHTY NATION, SUCH AS YOURS, AND ONE, LIKE MINE, WHICH MUST NEVER ACHIEVE THE RANK OF A GREAT POWER.

5. IT COMFORTS ME DEEPLY TO KNOW THAT I WILL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF ACCOMPLISHING MY DIPLOMATIC CHARGE BEFORE A GOVERNMENT WHICH, THANKS TO THE HIGH MORAL AND RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS WHICH DISTINGUISH AND EXTOL HIM WHO HEADS IT, MUST INSPIRE ITSELF WITH CONSIDERATIONS OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH MINE.

6. IT IS PARTICULARLY PLEASING FOR ME TO CONVEY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE VERY ATTENTIVE GREETINGS OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BEST WISHES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHIEF OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA FOR THE PROSPERITY AND WELL BEING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PERSONAL HAPPINESS OF YOUR EXCELLENCY. END QUOTE.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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